

CLOSING A LOOPHOLE THAT BLOCKS PHARMACEUTICAL COMPETITION

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, today, I urge my colleagues to pass the Fairness in Orphan Drug Exclusivity Act, which will close a loophole that blocks pharmaceutical competition and prevents innovative treatments for opioid abuse disorders from coming to the market.

The opioid crisis in this country, as you know, is very serious, and the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the problem. Because the pandemic and all of its underlying issues—fear of the virus, increased economic hardship, and the challenges of staying at home and maintaining a safe distance—opioid abuse disorders are skyrocketing, and the epidemic has taken a toll on communities in every corner of the country.

I am proud to co-lead this piece of legislation and that our Democratic majority pushed ahead with bringing it to the floor again for a vote amid last week's partisan attempts to hold this legislation hostage, because fighting the opioid epidemic cannot wait any longer.

In the past 20 years, we have seen a drastic increase in opioid addiction, with nearly every State in the Nation seeing a spike in overdose deaths. Passing our Fairness in Orphan Drug Exclusivity Act will help curb the senseless loss of life by expanding treatment options and driving down costs of new medicines.

□ 1215

HONORING CAPTAIN MICHAEL D'ANGELO GARIGAN

(Mrs. GREENE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life of Captain Michael D'Angelo Garigan, a dedicated law enforcement officer from my district, who passed away earlier this year.

Officer Garigan was born in Gordon County to a well-known and highly respected family. A Calhoun resident all his life, Captain Garigan invested in his community and bettered the lives of everyone around him.

Captain Garigan served the people of Gordon County for over three decades as a deputy, detective, and coordinator for the Gordon County Sheriff's Office. In fact, Captain Garigan was decorated over a dozen times for exemplary police work.

Outside the office, Captain Garigan was an active member of his community, serving his church as a deacon, broadcasting high school football games on the radio, and umpiring baseball and football games for local youth leagues.

Captain Garigan's exemplary contribution to the people of Gordon County should be honored and remembered. That is why I have introduced House Resolution 301, commending Captain Garigan for his devotion to his family, community, church, and the Nation.

My thoughts and prayers are with Captain Garigan's family and the people of Gordon County.

LET'S GET BACK TO WORK

(Mr. TIMMONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIMMONS. Madam Speaker, there are nearly 8 million job openings in the United States right now, yet the Federal Government is currently paying people to stay home instead of going to work.

Last year, the government took steps to protect and support the American people during a once-in-a-lifetime global pandemic. It was the right thing to do at the time. Now science tells us that we can resume life as normal.

Federal money was able to support workers during the peak of the pandemic, but now the best recovery plan is employment. The answer to our supply chain issues, rising unemployment rate, and inflation is not to continue to throw trillions of dollars at this problem. The real solution is to get people back to work.

We need to follow the lead of States, like my home State of South Carolina, and discontinue participation in the Federal unemployment programs.

Vaccines are available to anyone who chooses to get one. Let's get back to work.

RIISING UNEMPLOYMENT

(Mr. GUEST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, former President Ronald Reagan once said, "The best social program is a job."

Job creation and growing our economy are bipartisan issues that benefit all Americans.

This past year, we saw the impact that COVID had on our businesses, both large and small. But now, as we are reopening the economy, many employers are unable to find workers to keep up with the high demand for goods and services.

A major roadblock to businesses being able to hire staff comes from the Federal supplemental unemployment payments made on top of the unemployment already received by the States. These payments have caused many potential employees to continue collecting unemployment from the government rather than reentering the workforce.

Thankfully, many Republican Governors, including Mississippi's Governor Tate Reeves, have ordered the end of the Federal unemployment payments now that the economy is open.

As a Congress, we need to follow the example of Mississippi and other States and bring this program to a close, as more Americans find it possible to return to normal life.

THE EXEMPLARY CAREER OF TOM TENBRINK

(Mr. HUIZENGA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary career of Tom TenBrink and his legacy of service, dedication, and success in the Jenison community. On behalf of west Michigan, it is an honor to express my appreciation and gratitude for his many years of service to the students, staff, and families of Jenison Public Schools.

Mr. TenBrink's distinguished career with the Jenison Public Schools is coming to an end, as he is retiring after 34 successful years, 18 of which were spent as superintendent of the district.

As a faithful servant to west Michigan, Mr. TenBrink has spent his tenure establishing Jenison Public Schools as a destination district. He has fostered a family culture, prioritizing the importance of adopting attitudes of servant leadership, while also maintaining a commitment to educational excellence.

His steadfast leadership has led to the creation of the Jenison International Academy, the development of a K-12 Spanish immersion program, and the building of the Jenison Center for the Arts and a new Kids First early childhood center. Furthermore, the district has earned countless accolades under his leadership.

Tom, thank you for your leadership, dedication, and commitment not only to the students, but to the Jenison community and all of west Michigan. I hope you enjoy retirement knowing that Jenison and Georgetown Township would not be the place it is today without your leadership.

GET AMERICA BACK ON TRACK

(Mr. MANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge Americans who can get back to work, get back to work.

It has been more than a year since the pandemic shut down the country. Today, nationwide coronavirus cases have dramatically decreased, and cases in Kansas alone are only 7 percent of what they were in January. We are getting back to normal. Businesses are ready to reopen and welcome back customers.

Unfortunately, President Biden's bonus, the new monthly unemployment checks being distributed on top of the checks unemployed persons already receive, is paying a premium for potential workers to remain at home rather than finding work. I have heard from

countless small business owners in the Big First who cite the Biden bonus as the reason why they cannot find workers and completely reopen.

The data doesn't lie. There are nearly 8 million open jobs in America right now, a new record. The Biden bonus, at a time when employers are searching for workers, is unwanted Federal Government interference in the marketplace.

I recently joined fellow Kansas Republicans in urging the Kansas Governor to opt out of enhanced unemployment benefits. I cosponsored the Help Wanted Act, which addresses the severe labor shortages caused by the Federal unemployment policy.

It is time to take off the masks, get our kids back to school, get our businesses open, and get people back to work so we can get America back on track.

LET US RESUME THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, the pandemic has taken a terrible toll on the country. The pandemic has taken a terrible toll on Congress. In its current state, Congress is not working. We have restrictions on the voting process, we have widespread proxy voting and remote hearings. That has all contributed to the current state of dysfunction. But the good news is this can be fixed.

Look, the Doctors Caucus are Members of Congress with medical backgrounds, well-versed in evaluating medical risks and benefits for patients, proposed courses of action, and we have worked vigorously to educate our constituents that the coronavirus vaccines are safe and effective, yet we are not setting a good example of what happens when vaccine participation is high.

The Doctors Caucus has sent requests to the Office of the Attending Physician and the Speaker of the House appealing for updated guidelines consistent with the science and the Centers for Disease Control.

There will be a motion on the floor of this House later this afternoon, fully supported by members of the Doctors Caucus. I urge all Members to carefully consider that proposal and to vote in favor.

CONDEMNING THE HORRIFIC SHOOTINGS IN ATLANTA

(Ms. LETLOW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LETLOW. Madam Speaker, as a woman of faith, I am called to love my neighbor as myself and to bear one another's burdens. My heart is heavy with the burden, pain, and loss experi-

enced by the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

Unfortunately, we have seen a nationwide rise in hateful and harmful acts toward Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Targeted violence against anyone based on who they are cannot be tolerated. It is not who we are as a people and goes against everything we represent as a nation.

Today, I had hoped to be able to support H. Res. 275, condemning the horrific shootings of the eight Asian women in Atlanta, to honor the lives of the victims, and recognize the basic American fundamentals that reject hatred and violence.

Instead, what would have been a fitting and honorable resolution ended up being just another vehicle for delivering cheap shots against our former President.

I am disappointed that I cannot support this resolution as written.

GREATER HALL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AGRIBUSINESS AWARDS

(Mr. CLYDE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2021 recipients of the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce's annual agribusiness awards.

The Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce comes together each year to recognize and celebrate the contribution of agriculture in our everyday lives. We were blessed to be hosted by the Echols family at Jaemor Farms this year.

The Farmer of the Year award went to Mr. Scott Glover of Glo-Crest Dairy and Mountain Fresh Creamery. In fact, I recently had the privilege to tour Mr. Glover's farm, and it was indeed an impressive operation.

The Friend of Agriculture award was given to the Hall County School District's Agri-Business Center for their agriculture programs and the related education they provide to their students.

Cargill, Incorporated, was awarded the Outstanding Agribusiness award for its generous donations of nearly \$100,000 in the past number of years.

Additionally, Mr. Phil Hulsey was inducted into the Hall County Agriculture Hall of Fame for his incredible lifetime contributions as a dairyman.

Agriculture is the leading industry in Georgia, bringing in about \$73 billion annually. I thank the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce for allowing me the opportunity to join them in honoring agricultural leaders in Hall County, Georgia.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate this year's winners on their achievements in the agriculture industry.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF JASON PHELPS

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize my constituent services director, Jason Phelps, of New Hartford, New York, for 20 years of outstanding service to the people of upstate New York.

Jason began his service as an intern for former Congressman Sherry Boehlert in Washington, D.C., and, after a short time working for a nonprofit, became a member of Boehlert's Utica staff, where he dedicated himself to veterans' case work. Jason has worked for five different Members of Congress in the Mohawk Valley and has served countless veterans across the region.

No matter how complex the case, Jason is always ready to jump in to assist our veterans. From cutting through VA red tape, to making sure a veteran and their family receives the Purple Heart they earned through their service, Jason approaches each case with determination and compassion.

Not only is Jason an amazing veterans' advocate, he is also a role model and an inspiration to the many staff and interns he has worked with in all these offices throughout the years.

Jason, thank you for your many years of service to our brave veterans and for also being the guiding light for our staff and our community. We all look forward to working with you for many more years to come.

REMEMBERING ANDRE THE GIANT

(Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, last but certainly not least, today I rise to honor the life of the eighth wonder of the world on what would have been his 75th birthday: Andre Roussimoff, better known as Andre the Giant, who spent his final years in the small town of Ellerbe, right in the middle of the Ninth District of North Carolina.

Standing 7 feet 4 inches tall and weighing over 500 pounds, Andre was known for his time in the World Wide Wrestling Federation, where he was a fan favorite. During his professional career, he headlined WrestleMania and also defeated Hulk Hogan to win the WWF World Heavyweight Championship. To nonwrestling fans, he is best known for playing the role of Fezzik in the 1987 film "The Princess Bride."

Despite his great size, those who knew him found him to be gentle and kind. Andre passed away at the age of 46 in 1993, and his ashes were scattered on his beloved Ellerbe ranch.

I am proud today to pay tribute to the memory of Ellerbe's most famous resident.

□ 1230

FAIRNESS IN ORPHAN DRUG EXCLUSIVITY

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 403, I call up